

REMARKS ON ACCELERATED
DEPRECIATION**HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2001

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my strong support for efforts to increase the depreciation deduction. In my view accelerated depreciation is one of the most efficient and effective ways for Congress to spur business investment in our country.

Mr. Speaker, as you know this year has seen a dramatic drop off in business investment. Business investment was one of the foundations of the economic boom that our nation enjoyed during the Clinton Administration. It is therefore critical that Congress does what it can to restart the capital investment engine that has propelled our nation's economy to extraordinary heights over the last decade.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to reductions in interest rates and balancing the budget, one of the most important things the Federal Government can do to increase business investment, in my view, is to accelerate the depreciation schedule for business purchases. Depreciation schedules reflect the Federal Government's own somewhat arbitrary calculation of what is the economic life of capital. Accelerating the depreciation allowance for new capital investments provides a direct and immediate incentive for businesses to build factories, purchase new equipment, and generally expand operations. This inevitably creates jobs and results in a long term improvement in the productivity rates of American industry. Additionally, unlike many other proposed tax incentives, accelerated depreciation is directly tied to business investment. A business-person can not enjoy this tax incentive unless he or she commits to a capital expenditure.

Mr. Speaker, it is for these reasons, I firmly believe that the long term economic benefits of accelerated depreciation far outweigh the immediate revenue loss consequences of any such tax cut. It is my hope that in the 2002 session of the 107th Congress we will pass into law an acceleration of the depreciation allowance.

IN RECOGNITION OF JESUS
BURCIAGA**HON. XAVIER BECERRA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2001

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, it is with utmost honor and pleasure that I rise to recognize Mr. Jesus Burciaga, a gifted leader and outstanding firefighter from La Habra, California. Today, Jesus achieves another milestone in an already storied career. In the process, he affirms our belief that devotion, determination, and discipline still pay handsome dividends in life.

This 20th of December, the Los Angeles County Fire Department elevates Jesus to the rank of Deputy Fire Chief, third in command of the second largest fire protection agency in America. His promotion highlights a career of exceptional public service which began more than a quarter century ago.

As a young man who once shined shoes on the corner of First Street and Gage Avenue in East Los Angeles, Jesus saw his hard work and perseverance take him from the lowest position in the Los Angeles County Fire Department, suppression aid, to fire fighter, then inspector, to Captain by 1984. Five years later he was promoted to Battalion Chief, and by 1994 he had become Assistant Fire Chief, serving for a time as Los Angeles County Fire Marshal.

Chief Burciaga has accomplished many "firsts." He became one of the youngest firefighters to qualify for Captain at the age of twenty-five. He became the first Fire Marshal of Latino descent in the County's history. And he is certainly the first fortyseven year old father of five daughters whom I have witnessed retain not only his hair but its natural dark color.

I met Jesus more than thirteen years ago at a "Career Day" session at a local elementary school where we both were presented before a class of fifth graders. Captain Burciaga was dressed in uniform; I, Deputy Attorney General Becerra, wore my suit. There was no contest: he glittered, I gawked. He told the kids of his battles with fire, I battled to keep their eyes on me. It would not surprise me if some of those young students today are firefighters.

Chief Burciaga has a passion for service and a devotion to our youth. As President of the United Hispanic Scholarship Fund he has helped raise \$500,000 to make the dream of college a reality for more than one thousand students. He volunteers his "spare time" to support his brethren internationally, delivering surplus but valuable firefighting vehicles and equipment and teaching the latest fire fighting techniques to firefighters in countries like Mexico.

But, without question, his greatest passion and devotion, which has earned him our undying respect and affection, belongs to his family. Ana Burciaga has fought every one of her husband's fires. In her eyes you see the values that have made the Burciaga family so strong. Ana and Jesus and their five accomplished daughters—Elenor, Catherine, Luz, Natalie and Sarah—have every right to be proud today.

Mr. Speaker, on this day, December 20, 2001, family, friends and colleagues gather at Descanso Gardens in La C nada, Flintridge, California to witness the official appointment of Jesus Burciaga as Deputy Fire Chief for the County of Los Angeles and to celebrate 28 years of courage, integrity, and consummate professionalism. It is with great pride that I ask my colleagues in this beloved House of Representatives to join me today in saluting Jesus Burciaga, an exceptional man and cherished friend.

WILKES-BARRE NATIVE HONORED
FOR ROLE IN BOMBER CREW
RESCUE**HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2001

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call the attention of the House of Representatives to the dedication of the team from the USS *Russell* who rescued the four mem-

ber-crew of an Air Force B-1B bomber that crashed on December 12th in the Indian Ocean. In particular, I would like to highlight the role of Boatswain Mate 1st Class Stephen Lyons, a native of my District.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, I would like to note that I am proud of him and all the military personnel from Northeastern and Central Pennsylvania and grateful for their willingness to serve America.

I would now like to enter into the record the following article about Boatswain Mate 1st Class Lyons from the December 17th edition of the Wilkes-Barre Citizens' Voice:

CITY NATIVE INVOLVED IN INDIAN OCEAN
RESCUE

(By Gene Skordinski and Tom Venesky)

A Wilkes-Barre native was one of the members of the USS *Russell* who rescued the four member-crew of an Air Force B-1B bomber that crashed Wednesday in the Indian Ocean.

Boatswain Mate 1st Class Stephen Lyons, 38, operated one boat that rescued the crew.

The rescue boats were launched from the destroyer USS *Russell* after the jet crashed on its way to bomb targets in Afghanistan.

The \$280 million bomber went out of control and fell into the ocean about 60 miles north of Diego Garcia after taking off from the British island, government sources reported.

It was the first manned, fixed wing U.S. aircraft lost in the Afghanistan campaign.

Crew members ejected from the plane at 15,000 feet and were in the water about two hours during the night.

Lyons, who is on the USS *Russell*, was driving one search and rescue boat that responded to the crash.

All four crew members were in good condition, said officials.

Lyons joined the Navy following his graduation from Meyers High School in 1983.

During his Navy career, he has served aboard the USS Guam for five years as well as the USS Savannah. He has served in Beirut, Somalia and the Gulf War. He has also completed several six-month tours of sea duty in the Mediterranean Sea and the Indian Ocean.

Lyons was responsible for collecting personal items from sailors on the USS Guam as well as the embassy personnel during the evacuation of the embassy in Somalia.

Aside from operating search and rescue craft, Lyons drives the captain's launch, a boat used to shuttle the ship's captain to and from shore.

He has also served at Norfolk, Va.; Pax River, Md.; Kings Bay, Ga., and Pearl Harbor.

While at Pax River, he worked in the testing of hovercraft and with the David Taylor Research in Norfolk.

He is the son of Harold and Jean Lyons, 160 Wood St., Wilkes-Barre. Boatswain Mate 1st Class Lyons is married to the former Sharon Gula, formerly of Edwardsville. They have two sons, Stephen, 13, and Justin, 11, and the family resides in Pearl Harbor. His grandmother, Lucy Machinshok, resides in the Pocono area.

His mother said he is currently on his fourth six-month cruise since joining the Navy in 1984. He is set to return after Easter.

Although his exact location is classified, she said she keeps in touch with her son through e-mail.

"He e-mails me three times a week," she said, adding it can be difficult not knowing where he is.

"You worry and wonder and thank God when you hear from him that it's good news," she said. "He can't tell us where he is or even where he's going."